

**SOLANO COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
DETENTION FACILITY INSPECTION
2006-2007 Solano County Grand Jury**

REASON FOR INSPECTION

California Penal Code §919 subsection (b) provides: "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Pursuant to the statute, the 2006-2007 Grand Jury inspected the Solano County Justice Center Detention Facility and Court Holding Cells.

GRAND JURY ACTIONS

- Met with Solano County Sheriff and senior administrators
- Viewed a power point presentation of the department's operation and interviewed staff at the detention facility
- Toured and inspected detention facility and Superior Court holding cells
- Reviewed Corrections Standards Authority facility inspection evaluation report

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

The Solano County Justice Center Detention Facility is a 260,000 square foot facility located at 530 Union Avenue, Fairfield, California. The detention facility is commonly known as the main jail. It became operational June 1989 and was given a Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) bed capacity rating for 705 beds. After remodeling the facility, bed capacity rating increased to 740. According to CSA standards, the facility is classified as a type II facility, which means it is a local detention facility used for the detention of individuals awaiting arraignment, trial, sentencing and fulfilling commitment. On the day of inspection, the inmate population was 733. The facility is operated by, under the control of and commanded by the Solano County Sheriff/Coroner's Department.

The Sheriff and staff launched a successful recruiting campaign that addressed personnel shortages and overtime usage throughout the department. All areas are now fully staffed and overtime has been dramatically reduced.

In 2006, 19,602 individuals were booked into the facility; 8,864 for misdemeanor offenses and 10,738 for felony offenses. Every 60.6 minutes an individual was booked for a misdemeanor offense and every 48.9 minutes an individual was booked for a felony offense. In 2006, there was an overall increase in felony bookings for homicide, assault and sex crimes.

The Sheriff's Department administers several programs that assist the inmates while incarcerated. Some examples of the programs are:

- Youth and Family Services Jail Outreach
- Religious Services
- Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous
- Institutional Homeless Case Management

Youth and Family Services Outreach Jail Program

This program assists sentenced inmates with drug and alcohol problems. It provides group and individual counseling. Recovery 2, is also a part of the program. Recovery 2 is a self-help therapeutic program presented in a group setting and is facilitated by the Sheriff's Department Chaplin, Youth and Family Services and Case staff.

Religious Services Program

This program is conducted by 2 chaplains. The program provides church services, Bible studies, Bible correspondence, personal counseling, crisis intervention and marriage services.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous Programs

These programs are available to all incarcerated individuals upon request. Meetings are held weekly in a group setting.

Institutional Homeless Case Management Program

This program is for inmates that have been incarcerated for more than 30 days and will be homeless upon release. The program provides assistance with transitional housing, finding financial aid and medical providers. The program also provides assistance with finding drug/alcohol treatment programs and mental health providers.

The Sheriff's Department has been under contract with the California Forensic Medical Group since March 2004 to provide the inmates with in-house medical, dental and outpatient mental health services. Based on information received, medical staff had 48,645 contacts from January through June 2006 and mental health staff had 635 contacts during the same period.

The Sheriff noted that Workers' Compensation injury claims have been reduced since the creation of the Custody Response Team. The CRT is deployed when necessary to remove combative, uncooperative inmates and during emergencies. The CRT receives approximately 100 call outs annually. Over 50% of the call outs resulted in voluntary compliance.

The Sheriff's Department Custody Division took the following actions to improve overall operations:

- Consolidated policy and procedure for the Fairfield and Claybank Facilities.
- Implemented a Jail Management Team, Facilities Inspection Team and Facilities Search Team.
- Contracted with Legal Research Associates.

Consolidating policy and procedure

Policy and procedure consolidation for the Claybank and Main Jail Facilities has standardized day-to-day operations and has addressed applicable California Code of Regulations, Title 15 requirements.

Jail Management Team

The team meets monthly to identify any potential problems, classification issues, personnel and inmate grievances, maintenance issues, policy, legal issues and to discuss pilot testing of any new products prior to purchase.

Facilities Inspection Team

The team is responsible for inspecting all lifesaving equipment, all restraint equipment, developing and updating fire evacuation plans, examining all facility locks once a month and conducting visual inspection of all smoke and light detectors. When activated, the team is asked to search and find contraband, weapons, narcotics and other illegal materials within the confines of the detention facilities.

Legal Research Associates

The Legal Research Associates provides the inmates with law library services that give the inmates greater access to legal reference materials.

The Solano County Court Holding Cells are located in the Solano County Superior Court Building second floor at 500 Union Avenue, Fairfield, California. The holding cells are accessed from the rear of the main jail building and by elevator. The general public does not have access to the cells. The holding cells are used exclusively for detaining adult and juvenile inmates minutes prior to a scheduled court arraignment or trial. No inmates are detained over night. Whenever a juvenile is being detained, a probation officer is present. There are occasions when adults and juveniles, although detained in separate cells, are within hearing distance of each other, which is an apparent violation of the California Code of Regulations, Title 15.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1 - Policy and procedure are consolidated into one operating manual for the Fairfield and Claybank Detention Facilities.

Recommendation 1 – None.

Finding 2 - The Jail Management Team, Facility Inspection Team and the Facility Search Team were created to enhance overall operations.

Recommendation 2 - The teams should remain in place as part of the overall operations of the Sheriff's Department.

Finding 3 – The Sheriff's Department Custody Division entered into a contract with Legal Research Associates, which has enhanced the inmate's ability to access legal material and reduced inmate complaints relating to legal material access.

Recommendation 3 – The contract should remain in place allowing inmates to continue to participate in the service.

Finding 4 - Occasionally adult and juvenile inmates are within hearing distance of each other when detained at the Superior Court Holding Cells.

Recommendation 4 - Dialog should continue between the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and the Superior Court with the goal of correcting this situation as indicated in the Corrections Standard Authority report.

COMMENTS

The Solano County Sheriff has successfully addressed serious staff shortages, the use of overtime, workers' compensation injury claims and the overall day-to-day operations of the department. Staffing shortages and the reduction of overtime were overcome by launching and conducting a successful recruiting campaign. Maintaining the Custody Response Team reduced the number of workers' compensation claims. Consolidating policy and procedure into one manual for the day-to-day operations of the Fairfield and Claybank detention facilities made overall operations more uniform and has addressed California Code of Regulations, Title 15 requirements.

The Sheriff and Staff are to be complimented for improving overall day-to-day operations and for exhibiting and providing a high level of safety, security and service to the people of Solano County.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

- Solano County Sheriff/Coroner's Office
- Solano County Board of Supervisors